

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:
 - a body;
 - a keyboard upon said body including at least one key, the keyboard configured to cause a first function to be performed on activation of the key by physical contact with a terminating hand member of a user's right hand and to cause a second different function to be performed on activation of the key by physical contact with a terminating hand member of the user's left hand; and
 - a detection mechanism, including one or more touch sensitive sensors and associated logic, configured to:
 - detect one or more changes in physical contact between the body and either the user's right hand, the user's left hand, or both, based at least in part on change sensed by the one or more touch-sensitive sensors;
 - in response to detecting the one or more changes in physical contact, determine which one of the user's two hands will be used to activate the key; and
 - in response to the determining, assign one of the first function or the second function to the activation of the key.
- 2-4. (Cancelled)
5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said one or more touch-sensitive sensors comprise at least one terminating hand member proximity sensor.
6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said terminating hand member sensor is configured to detect that a detected terminating hand member is in a non-use position due to the detected terminating hand member being in proximity to the terminating hand member proximity sensor.

7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said touch-sensitive sensor comprises at least one pressure sensor configured to detect an increase in pressure on the body by either the user's left hand, the user's right hand, or both.

8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said at least one pressure sensor is configured to detect an increased inward pressure on a side of said body, wherein the processor is configured to determine the right-to-left or left-to-right movements of the user's terminating hand members based at least in part on such increased inward pressure on the side of the body.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the apparatus is a selected one of a wireless mobile phone and a personal digital assistant.

12-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a body;

a keyboard upon said body including a key, the keyboard configured to cause a first function to be performed on activation of the key by physical contact with a terminating hand member of a user's right hand and to cause a different second function to be performed on activation of the key by physical contact with a terminating hand member of the user's left hand; and

at least one pressure sensor and associated logic, configured to

detect an increase in pressure on the body by either the user's right hand, the user's left hand, or both

in response to detecting the detected increase in pressure, determine which one of the user's two hands will be used to activate the key; and

in response to the determining, assign one of the first function or the second function to the activation of the key.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said at least one pressure sensor configured to detect an increased inward pressure on a side of said body.

16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the processor is configured to determine the right-to-left or left-to right movements of the user's terminating hand members based at least in part on such increased inward pressure on the side of the body.

17. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:

a body;

a keyboard upon said body including a key, the keyboard configured to cause a first function to be performed on activation of the key by physical contact with a terminating hand member of a user's right hand and to cause a second function to be performed on activation of the key by physical contact with a terminating hand member of the user's left hand; and

a motion sensor and associated logic, configured to:

detect, kinetically, right-to-left or left-to-right movements of at least a portion of the body by either the user's left hand, the user's right hand, or both;

in response to detecting the one or more movements, determine which one of the user's two hands will be used to activate the key, and

in response to the determining, assign one of the first function or the second function to the activation of the key.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said motion sensor is a MicroElectroMechanical Systems (MEMS) device.

19. (Previously Presented) In an electronic device comprising a keyboard having a plurality of input keys, including at least a keyboard configured to input a first character value on activation of the key by physical contact with a terminating hand member of a user's right hand and to input a second character value on activation of the key by physical contact with a terminating hand member of a user's left hand, a method comprising:

detecting, kinetically or on a touch-sensitive basis, one or more changes in physical contact between the body and either the user's right hand, the user's left hand, or both;

in response to detecting the one or more changes in physical contact, determining which one of the user's two hands will be used to activate the key; and

in response to the determining, assigning one of said first or second character value to the activation of the key if the activation of the key occurs within a pre-defined period of time since said determining.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, further comprising: assigning the other of the first or second character value to the activation of the key if no activation occurs within the pre-defined period of time since said determining.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said determining comprises monitoring right-to-left or left-to-right movement of the body by either the user's left hand, the user's right hand, or both.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said terminating hand member proximity sensor is configured to detect that a detected terminating hand member has moved from a non-use position due to the detected terminating hand member moving away from proximity to the terminating hand member proximity sensor.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein detecting one or more changes in physical contact comprises detecting that a detected terminating hand member has moved from a non-use position due to the detected terminating hand member moving away from proximity to the terminating hand member proximity sensor.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, detecting one or more changes in physical contact comprises detecting an increase in pressure on the body by either the user's left hand, the user's right hand, or both.

26. (Previously Presented) An apparatus, comprising:

a body;

a keyboard upon said body including at least one key, the keyboard configured to cause a first function to be performed on activation of the key by physical contact with a terminating hand member of a user's right hand and to cause a second different function to be performed on activation of the key by physical contact with a terminating hand member of the user's left hand; and

at least one touch-sensitive sensor and associated logic configured to:

detect, on a touch-sensitive basis, that a detected terminating hand member has moved from a non-use position due to the detected terminating hand member moving away from proximity to the terminating hand member proximity sensor;

in response to detecting that the detected terminating hand member has moved from a non-use position, determine which one of the user's two hands will be used to activate the key; and

in response to the determining, assign one of the first function or the second function to the activation of the key.